

# **Two Voices Speaking a Common Language of Hope: Spiritual Care and Bioethics in Creative Collaboration**

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## Description

Showcasing the distinctive collaborative relationship between Ethics and Spiritual Care as a single corporate pillar at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, we will present examples drawn from clinical chaplaincy experience, bioethics case consultations, and interdisciplinary educational initiatives between Toronto Rehab and the Joint Centre for Bioethics at the University of Toronto. Discussion will focus on topics including the distinct yet complimentary roles of chaplaincy and ethics, professional competencies for Chaplains and Bioethicists, and patient expectations of Chaplains and Bioethicists.

## Workshop objectives

As a result of this workshop, participants will:

1. understand better how to create or enhance an active and collaborative relationship between Bioethics and Spiritual Care programs
2. be able to assist healthcare teams to identify better the spiritual concerns of patients as an essential component of team members' professional competencies related to ethical awareness, reflection and response
3. be able to attend to personal narratives as a way to identify how spiritual and religious beliefs and values influence patients' ethical decision-making

## Outline

1. Introduction
  - a. culture of collaboration at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute (TRI) between spiritual care and ethics;
  - b. partnership arrangement between spiritual care and ethics at TRI.
2. Overview of divergent opinions on the roles of Chaplains and Ethicists, including:
  - a. the exclusion of Chaplains from the health care team (Loewy)
  - b. patients' low expectations of hospital chaplains in regard to ethics (Piderman)
  - c. chaplains' high expectations regarding their training and role in ethics (Simmonds)
  - d. key collaboration between Chaplains and Ethicists (Martin Smith)

3. Identification of key opportunities for engagement and collaboration between chaplains and clinical ethicists, including:
  - a. the role of chaplains as ethics facilitators in a “Hub and Spokes” strategy for ethics service delivery at Toronto Rehab
  - b. overlapping specialized competencies, skills, and desirable character traits for Chaplains and Ethicists.
  - c. various research topics, presentations, and articles on spirituality and ethics consultations
  
4. Interactive session to explore further the common language between Chaplains and Ethicists, including:
  - a. a case scenario
  - b. the “Four Boxes” as a method for ethical decision-making
  - c. descriptions of key narrative types that have implications for chaplaincy and ethical decision-making
  - d. new areas of collaboration & research
  
5. We will conclude with an argument for the common language of hope that Chaplains and Ethicists share in their mutual engagement with values and meaning-making.

### Bibliography

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